

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS:RR
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-----080612Z 064550 /21

R 072232Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE RE 60 MINUTES PROGRAM

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT PRESS
SPOKESMAN IN EVENT CBS 60 MINUTES PROGRAM STIMULATED
QUESTIONS ON SAVAK ACTIVITIES. NO QUESTIONS WERE RAISED
MARCH 7.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

--Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT LOOKED AT SAVAK ACTIVITIES
IN THE U.S.?

--A. LAST FALL WHEN THIS ISSUE FIRST AROSE THE STATE
DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED AN INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS ABOUT
ACTIVITIES OF IRANIAN OFFICIALS AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF
ILLEGAL ACTIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY, IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE
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U.S. ARDESHIR ZAHEDI WAS INFORMED BY A SENIOR STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL OF WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL
ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGN OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. WE WERE
ASSURED BY THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. LEGAL
REQUIREMENTS AND THAT ACTIVITIES OF ALL IRANIAN
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE WITHIN THE LAW
AND WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ACCEPTED DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES.

--Q. HOW DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT CARRY OUT THIS INQUIRY?

--A. WE HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER.

--Q. AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI STATES THAT THERE ARE ONLY FIVE OR SIX SAVAK OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?

--A. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS NOTIFIED OF THE NAMES OF IRANIAN OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO THE IRANIAN EMBASSY OR TO IRANIAN CONSULAR OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES. I AM UNAWARE THAT ANY OF THESE ARE IDENTIFIED TO US AS SAVAK OFFICIALS, AND I THEREFORE CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

--Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT "HIT TEAMS" COMING TO THE U.S. TO ASSASSINATE IRANIAN DISSIDENTS?

--A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE LOOKED INTO IT.

--Q. DO SAVAK OFFICIALS CONDUCT SURVEILLANCE AGAINST IRANIAN NATIONALS?

--A. AS THE SHAH HAS SAID PUBLICLY, SAVAK OFFICIALS ARE INTERESTED IN ANY GROUP WHICH CONDUCTS ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS A LOGICAL ASSUMPTION THAT THE SAVAK OFFICIALS ATTEMPT TO KEEP TRACK OF WELL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KNOWN DISSIDENTS.

--Q. WHAT DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT THINK OF THE IDEA OF A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF SAVAK ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.?

--A. THIS IS A DECISION WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE CONGRESS.
VANCE

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NNN

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